

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) A canted saw blade comprising:

a body formed of a flat strip of sheet material including a cutting portion and a shank portion, said cutting portion including a cutting edge on one side of said cutting portion and a back edge on an opposite side of said cutting portion, said shank portion having a first edge extending from said cutting edge of said cutting portion and a second edge extending from said back edge of said cutting portion, said second edge of said shank portion being stepped so as to be laterally offset from said back edge of said cutting portion, said second edge of said shank portion including an angularly disposed edge section which is in a plane angularly offset from said cutting edge of said cutting portion, said shank portion including an aperture having a flat rear edge, said flat rear edge being generally perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section of said second edge of said shank portion.

17. (original) The canted saw blade according to claim 16, wherein said angularly disposed edge section of said second edge of said shank portion is offset between 2 and 6 degrees relative to said cutting edge.

18. (previously presented) A saw blade comprising:
a body defining a cutting portion and a shank portion;
said cutting portion having a cutting edge and a back edge on an opposite side of said cutting edge;
said shank portion having a first edge extending from said cutting edge of said cutting portion and a second edge extending from said back edge of said cutting portion, said second edge is stepped so as to be laterally offset from said back edge of said cutting portion;
said second edge of said shank portion includes an angularly disposed edge section which is in a plane angularly offset by an acute angle from said cutting edge of said cutting portion.

19. (previously presented) The saw blade according to claim 18, wherein said shank portion further includes an aperture therethrough having a flat rear edge.

20. (currently amended) ~~The saw blade according to claim 19,~~ A saw blade comprising:
a body defining a cutting portion and a shank portion, said cutting portion including a cutting edge on one side of said cutting portion and a back edge on an opposite side of said cutting portion, said shank portion having a first edge extending from said cutting edge of said cutting portion and a second edge extending from said back edge of said cutting portion, said second edge of said shank portion including an

angularly disposed edge section, said shank portion further including an aperture therethrough having a flat rear edge; and

wherein said flat rear edge of said aperture is generally perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section of said second edge of said shank portion.

21. (currently amended) The saw blade according to claim 18, wherein said flat rear edge of said aperture is generally perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section of said second edge of said shank portion and said shank portion includes a mounting edge perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section of said second edge of said shank portion.

22. (previously presented) A saw blade and clamping system comprising:
a support structure including a pair of lateral walls and a base portion extending between said pair of lateral walls;
a saw blade having a body including a cutting portion and a shank portion, said cutting portion having a cutting edge and a back edge on an opposite side of said cutting edge, said shank portion having a first edge extending from said cutting edge of said cutting portion and a second edge extending from said back edge of said cutting portion, said second edge of said shank portion being stepped so as to be laterally offset from said back edge of said cutting portion, and said second edge of said shank portion includes an angularly disposed edge section which is in a plane angularly offset from said cutting edge of said cutting portion; and

wherein saw blade is insertable between said pair of lateral walls until said angularly disposed edge section contacts one of said pair of lateral walls.

23. (previously presented) The saw blade according to claim 22, wherein said shank portion further includes an aperture having a flat rear edge.

24. (currently amended) ~~The saw blade of claim 23,~~ A saw blade and clamping system comprising:

a support structure including a pair of lateral walls and a base portion extending between said pair of lateral walls;

a saw blade including a body defining a cutting portion and a shank portion, said cutting portion including a cutting edge on one side of said cutting portion and a back edge on an opposite side of said cutting portion, said shank portion having a first edge extending from said cutting edge of said cutting portion and a second edge extending from said back edge of said cutting portion, said second edge of said shank portion including an angularly disposed edge section, said shank portion further including an aperture therethrough having a flat rear edge; and

wherein said saw blade is insertable between said pair of lateral walls until said angularly disposed edge section contacts one of said pair of lateral walls, and said flat rear edge of said aperture is generally perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section of said second edge of said shank portion.

25. (previously presented) The saw blade according to claim 22, wherein said shank portion includes a mounting edge perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section of said second edge of said shank portion.